

Water Advisory Committee of Orange County  
Principles for Selection of CALFED Preferred Alternative  
For Presentation to the CALFED Scoping Hearing  
April 17, 1996 - Long Beach, Calif.

My name is Wayne Clark. I am here representing the Water Advisory Committee of Orange County. The committee consists of representatives of the city water departments and the water districts of Orange County. At their meeting of April 12, 1996, the committee unanimously adopted the following principles for guiding the selection of alternatives, or combination of alternatives, to be developed by the CALFED planning process in its effort to seek solutions to the problems of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

We urge that the following principles be employed as criteria in the selection among alternatives:

1. **Must result in improved water quality**
  - a. The primary consideration must be for improving public health aspects of water quality for the many jurisdictions that rely on water derived from the Delta system for our drinking water supply. THMs, bromide, pesticides and other contaminants must be controlled at the source; it is not acceptable to require reliance on treatment to eliminate toxins from drinking water.
  - b. Water quality for water management purposes is also of the highest priority. Water conservation and management practices, including reclamation, groundwater recharge and conjunctive use, depend on a supply containing the lowest possible total dissolved solids. The practice of allowing high salinity in source water will over time be disastrous to groundwater basins and extremely costly to urban water users.
2. **Must result in enhanced water reliability and supply for California's growing urban areas.**
  - a. The goal must be to achieve the full commitment of water through the State Water Project system. It must be at least consistent with the goal established in the Metropolitan Water District Integrated Resources Planning target.
  - b. Enhanced reliability should be achieved by establishing additional storage on the system.
3. **Must include reasonable emphasis on demand management for all users**
  - a. The selected alternatives must reflect sound demand management by agricultural and environmental users, as well as reflecting the commitment to Best Management Practices by the urban water users.



b. Recognition must be given that demand management is not without cost. The assumption must not be made that demand management is necessarily the least costly among alternatives. In the larger scope, it may be more costly than other alternatives

**4. Must be feasible and sustainable**

a. The selected alternatives must be based on sound engineering and proven water management systems.

b. The selected alternatives must recognize there is no possibility of "restoring" the Delta. The selected alternatives must recognize the Delta as a man-made environment that must be maintained at cost in perpetuity.

c. The selected alternatives must provide certainty of urban water supply against possible disruption of levees by earthquake or flood.

**5. Must be flexible**

a. The preferred alternatives must include operational standards that allow state and federal facilities to be operated in a coordinated fashion to ensure reliable exports, consistent with the "deal-is-a-deal" principle.

**6. Must include specific time frame**

a. The planning process should develop an interdependent time frame for accomplishment of the plan elements, including facilities, so that there is some predictable probability as to when these improved flows and water quality will be brought on line. Simply planning without implementation is not acceptable.

b. Time frame should link components so that improved water reliability and quality are achieved in concert with environmental and habitat improvements.

**7. Must include multiple financing mechanisms**

a. Environmental and habitat enhancements, for the "public good," should be financed by taxpayers through statewide bonds such as called for in SB900

b. Environmental enhancements that benefit water users should be paid for by water users.

c. There should be both state and federal funding in so far as both state and federal water projects and service areas are benefitted.

d. Supply enhancement facilities should be funded by water users. There should be an equitable balance between agriculture and urban water users.